

Case 3350

***Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 (Arachnida, Opiliones): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 for a group of nine opilionids from Southeast Asia, together with the family-group names ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODOIDEA Thorell, 1876 for five genera and 64 species from Asia, by suppressing the little-used senior homonym *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 for two species of South American Lepidoptera.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Lepidoptera; GEOMETRIDAE; moths; Arachnida; Opiliones; ONCOPODIDAE; *Oncopus*; *Oncopus doriae*; harvestmen; South-east Asia.

1. In 1855 Herrich-Schäffer (p. 99) introduced the generic name *Oncopus* for two species (*Paida citrosa* Geyer in Hübner, 1832 and *Paida transpecta* Geyer in Hübner, 1832) in the lepidopteran family LITHOSIIDAE (currently ARCTIIDAE) and designated *Paida citrosa* Geyer, 1832 as the type species. The same synopsis was given again in Herrich-Schäffer (1856, p. 19). The name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 later appeared in three geometrid catalogues: Prout (1934, p. 137, where it was transferred to the family GEOMETRIDAE, subfamily STERRHINAE), Fletcher (1979, p. 145) and Parsons et al. (1999, p. 663). Sihvonen & Kaila (2004, p. 333) recently assigned *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 to the sterrhine tribe CYLLOPODINI (of uncertain association); it is currently also listed in the online catalogue of Pitkin & Jenkins (2005). No other references to *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 in the taxonomic literature are known to us.

2. In 1876 Thorell (p. 134) described the genus *Oncopus* and the subfamily ONCOPODINAE in the opilionid family COSMETOIDAE (= COSMETIDAE) for *Oncopus doriae* Thorell, 1876 (p. 135), and in 1890 (p. 375) he raised ONCOPODINAE to family level. Kratochvíl (1958, p. 380) established the superfamily ONCOPODOIDEA for several families of laniatorean opilionids, Martens (1980, p. 356) restricted it to the family ONCOPODIDAE alone. After its introduction, the generic name *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 was mentioned in numerous taxonomic publications: Pocock (1897,

p. 285); Loman (1902, p. 182); Roewer (1923, p. 57); Sorensen (1932, p. 210); Giribet et al. (2002) and others. A list of a further 25 papers is held by the Commission Secretariat. A revision of this genus was published by Schwendinger & Martens (2004). *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 is currently also listed in four online catalogues: Kury (2003), Kury (2004), Brands (1989–2005) and Hallan (2005). These and many more publications also refer to the family-group names ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODOIDEA Thorell, 1876. The corresponding taxa have been taxonomically revised in Schwendinger (1992), Martens & Schwendinger (1998) and Schwendinger & Martens (1999, 2002, 2004). Schwendinger (in press, a) will present a summary of the genus *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 and the family ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 in a book on the biology of Opiliones. Descriptions of numerous new oncopodid species and genera will follow (Schwendinger, in press, b; Schwendinger & Martens, in press). Giribet is continuously adding molecular data from *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 and other oncopodids to GenBank and to his phylogenetic matrix for a future re-evaluation of opilionid systematics. *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 currently comprises nine valid species known from Southeast Asia. ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODOIDEA Thorell, 1876 comprise 64 species from Asia.

3. The generic name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 has priority over *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876. If the provisions of the Code are applied, *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 would have to be replaced by a substitute name in accordance with Article 60.3 of the Code (no junior synonyms are available). The corresponding family-group names ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODOIDEA Thorell, 1876, correctly formed from the genitive (podos) of the Greek word (pous) in accordance with Article 29.3.1, also would have had to be substituted under Article 39 of the Code.

4. Replacing the generic name *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 would require mandatory new combinations for nine valid binomina, for two binomina currently in synonymy and for one binomen (*Oncopus cuspidatus* Schwendinger, 1992) that is the original combination of the name of the type species of the genus *Caenoncopus* Martens & Schwendinger, 1998. It also requires replacing two family-group names, ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 and ONCOPODOIDEA Thorell, 1876, but not the corresponding two suborder names Oncopodomorpha Šilhavý, 1961 (p. 264) and Oncopodines Bristowe, 1976 (p. 178), which are not ruled by the Code and thus could remain in use. The above nomenclatural changes would cause confusion and considerable nomenclatural instability.

5. *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 is not the type-genus of a family-group taxon and it contains only two species. After Herrich-Schäffer's original publication the generic name and its corresponding binomina have been mentioned in only five systematic compilations and in one online catalogue. As far as we know, the two species of moths are of no economic importance. Replacing the generic name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 by its junior synonym *Neochorista* Warren, 1897 and changing the combinations of its two species accordingly would have a minimal impact on nomenclatural stability.

6. It is proposed, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, to suppress the little-used generic name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 in order to conserve the widely used generic name *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 together with the corresponding family-group names.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 and all uses of the name before Thorell (1876) for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation and by monotypy *Oncopus doriae* Thorell, 1876 (Arachnida);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *doriae* Thorell, 1876, as published in the binomen *Oncopus doriae* (specific name of the type species of *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876) (Arachnida);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ONCOPODIDAE Thorell, 1876 (type genus *Oncopus* Thorell, 1876) (Arachnida);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Oncopus* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 as suppressed in (1) above (Lepidoptera).

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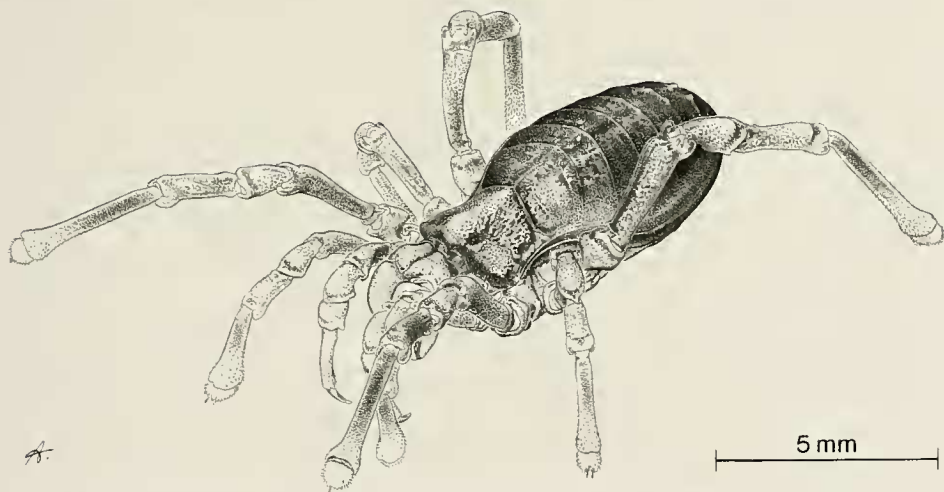


Fig. 1. *Oncopus truncatus* Thorell, 1891, female from Singapore; drawing by A. Coray (Basel).

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